Shortage of Jawans and Officers in the Army

4613. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present shortage of Jawans and Officers in the Indian Army at present;

(b) by when, the shortage is likely to be filled up; and

(c) whether Government have decided to prune the size of the Army in order to make up for the shortage; and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) At present there is a shortage of 13,323 officers and of 38,000 personnel below officers ranks in the Army. Approximately 71,000 recruits are currently under training, and hence the deficiency of personnel below officers rank is notional.

2. Various measures have been intiated to make up the shortage in the officer cadre in the Army, such as University Entry Scheme, exemption from appearing in Combined Defence Service Examination for NCC 'C' certificate holders for induction as Short Service Commission Officer (SSCO), induction of women as officers, promotion of service JCOs/ORs into the newly created Special Commissioned Officer (SCO) cadre. An Image Projection Campaign was launched during 1997-98 with the assistance of professional advertising agency. Second Phase of the campaign has been approved.

3. Implementation of the Fifth Pay Commission's recommendations in respect of defence services has resulted in improved pay scales, allowances and concessions to Armed Forces personnel. It is expected that the cumulative effect of all the measures will result in higher intake, making up the shortfall in the vacancies to a considerable extent in the near future.

4. The Army has formulated a plan for effecting under-posting of 50,000 personnel till 31-3-99. This will be done in a phased manner covering all types of units and formations. The financial savings generated would help modernise the Army in some measure. This exercise has been planned in such a manner that there will be no adverse effect on the defence preparedness of the country.

सैनिक स्कूल

4614. श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव: क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान त्रिपुरा और मध्य प्रदेश राज्यों में स्थापित किए गए सैनिक स्कूलों का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) क्या उपरोक्त अवधि के दौरान अहमदाबाद और भुज में एक भी सैनिक स्कूल की स्थापना नहीं की गई;

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं;

(घ) क्या अहमदाबाद और भुज में सैनिक स्कूल खोले जाने की आवश्यकता है; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो सरकार ने इस संबंध में क्या कार्रवाई की है?

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री जॉर्ज फर्नान्डीज): (क) मध्य प्रदेश राज्य में रीवा में एक सैनिक स्कूल 1962 से चल रहा है। त्रिपुरा राज्य में कोई सैनिक स्कूल नहीं है। त्रिपुरा के विद्यार्थी मणिपुर, इम्फाल में कार्यरत सैनिक स्कूल में प्रवेश पाने के लिए पात्र हैं।

(ख) से (ङ) गुजरात राज्य में बालाचड़ी में एक सैनिक स्कूल 1961 से चल रहा है। पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान देश में कहीं भी कोई भी सैनिक स्कूल स्थापित नहीं किया गया है। गुजरात राज्य सरकार से भुज या अहमदाबाद अथवा राज्य में किसी भी अन्य स्थान पर सैनिक स्कूल स्थापित किए जाने का कोई प्रस्ताव प्राप्त नहीं हुआ है।

Joint Indo-US army-naval exercise

4615. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news report